

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 20, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the title, specification, and claims, along with the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Applicants point out that a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.182 was filed with the U.S. Patent Office on October 17, 2003 (copy attached). This Petition was filed in order to substitute the current specification of the present application with a new specification that is an English-language translation of the Finnish-language specification of PCT Application PCT/FI99/00546, which is the parent of the present application. Since Applicants have not been informed of whether or not the Petition has been granted, and since Applicants can purchase no further extensions of time for the filing of the present Response, Applicants are basing the above amendments to the specification, which eliminate inconsistencies with the specification of the above-referenced parent PCT Application, on the assumption that the Petition will be granted. The above claim amendments and the remarks submitted below are also based on the assumption that the Petition will be granted.

Claims 1-15 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 16-33 have been added. Upon entry of this Response, claims 16-33 will be pending in the present application. Claims 16 and 25 are independent claims. Support for the amendments made to the specification may be found in the present specification, which should properly be the verified translation of PCT

Application PCT/FI99/00546. Support for the subject matter recited in claims 16-33 may be found at least in claims 1-18 of the verified translation of PCT Application PCT/FI99/00546 and in the specification thereof. No new matter has been added. The cancellation of claims 1-15 has not been made in view of any prior art. Claims 16-33 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Rejection of Claims 1-15 Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph:

Claims 1-15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. More specifically, it has been alleged that these claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-33 are in allowable form.

New claim 16, upon which claims 17-24 depend, recites a method of connection management in a communications system, which is suitable for packet switched data transmission, and which includes at least one serving node, at least one access system, and terminals. According to the method recited in claim 16, the communications system is adapted for having a first logical connection relating to a terminal between the serving node and the access system and a second, upper-level logical connection relating to the terminal between the terminal and the serving node. The method recited in claim 16 recites the step of releasing the first logical connection between the serving node and the

access system when the first logic connection is inactive, so that the second logical connection remains between the serving node and the terminal. The method recited in claim 16 also recites the step of reconnecting the first logical connection between the serving node and the access system when transmission of user data begins.

New claim 25, upon which claims 26-33 depend, recites a communications system, which is suitable for packet switched data transmission, and which includes at least one serving node, at least one access system, and terminals. The system recited in claim 25 is adapted for having a first logical connection relating to a terminal between the serving node and the access system and a second, upper-level logical connection relating to the terminal between the terminal and the serving node. The system recited in claim 25 includes connection management equipment for releasing the first logical connection between the serving node and the access system during data transmission non-activity relating to the first logical connection so that the second logical connection remains between the serving node and the terminal and for reconnecting this first logical connection, when traffic activity starts.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 16-33 recite subject matter that is properly enabled by the present specification. Hence, Applicants respectfully submit that the cancellation of claims 1-15 and the addition of claims 16-33 directly addresses the comments included in the Office Action and render the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, moot. At least in view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of

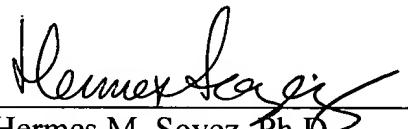
the rejection of claims 1-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the comments included in the Office Action have been addressed and that the rejection contained in the Office Action has been overcome. Hence, Applicants respectfully further submit that claims 16-33 are in condition for allowance. It is therefore respectfully requested that all claims pending in the present application be allowed, and that this application be passed to issue

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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